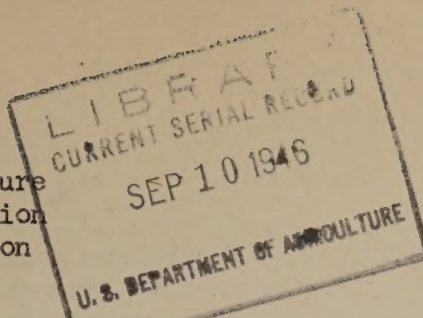


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United States Department of Agriculture  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region  
Washington 25, D. C.



September 4, 1946

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

Dear Committeemen:

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration programs and provide understanding of related actions.

*A. W. Manchester*

A. W. Manchester  
Director, Northeast Region

**SHORT SUPPLY** Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson has certified  
**COMMODITIES LISTED** to the OPA the list of agricultural commodities in short supply as of September 1. Under the provisions of the Price Control Extension Act of 1946, ceiling prices can be maintained on agricultural commodities only if they are in short supply. On the first day of each month, beginning September 1, 1946, the Secretary of Agriculture is required to certify to the Price Administrator the "short supply" commodities.

The Secretary's certification list includes all "agricultural commodities" in short supply, whether or not they are under price control at the time, except for commodities permanently excluded from price control by the Act and a few minor commodities which have been decontrolled for reasons other than adequacy of supply. ("Agricultural commodity," as defined in the Act, has been interpreted to include any manufactured food or feed product containing a third or more by weight or volume of such commodity or commodities, but not to include nonfood manufactures, such as clothing or textiles, or non-competitive imports such as coffee, cocoa, and bananas.)

On commodities certified in short supply which are now under control, maximum ceiling prices remain in effect unless specific decontrol action is taken. On the other hand, on commodities which are certified in short supply but have been decontrolled, price control is not automatically restored. Inclusion on the short supply list merely makes them eligible for recontrol. To be brought under price control again, these commodities would have to be recommended for such action by the Secretary of Agriculture with the written consent of the Price Decontrol Board or—in the case of commodities decontrolled by the Board -- by the Board itself.

For example, corn and wheat -- both of which were left decontrolled by the Price Decontrol Board -- are on the short supply list. Their inclusion on the list does not restore them to control but does make them eligible for such action. The inclusion also means that any food or feed products currently under control which are manufactured or processed from them continue under control.

(A complete list of the commodities certified in short supply is available in State PMA offices.)



**EMERGENCY FOOD COMMITTEES  
ASKED TO "STAND BY"**

The Famine Emergency Campaign entered a "stand-by" period this week as this country waits to see just how serious the hunger situation may become again next winter. Chairman Chester C. Davis of the President's Famine Emergency Committee describes the next few months as "a breathing spell between rounds." World food problems are still urgent and as early as next December, they may become "acute," he says.

Official authority for the State PMA Directors who have served as Emergency Food Program Managers since March 8, to suspend the active campaign to lessen consumption of certain foods comes from Acting Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan. The Directors are asked, however, to continue to give attention to:

- The production and preservation of food.
- The increased use of abundant foods.
- The re-use of edible fats and the salvage of used fats.
- The avoidance of food waste.

Mr. Davis and the Acting Secretary praised and thanked the State and local members of famine committees for their work during recent months. "Your people had an integral part in helping to save literally millions of lives," Mr. Davis said.

The longer-time phase of the famine emergency is expected to continue at least until 1947 crops are harvested.

**NEW CEILING PRICES  
FOR LIVESTOCK**

New ceiling prices on live hogs, cattle, and lambs have been established in accordance with procedure provided by the Price Control Extension Act of 1946. The new ceilings are:

Hogs -- Chicago basis, \$16.25 per hundred pounds (compared with the June 30 ceiling of \$14.85. Cattle -- Overriding ceiling, Chicago basis, \$20.25 per hundred pounds, with maximum stabilization ranges of \$19.25 on choice grades, \$17.75 on good grades, and \$13 on commercial grades. (The old overriding ceiling was \$18 plus a feeder subsidy of 50 cents.) Lambs -- Ceilings on dressed lamb to reflect about \$19 per hundred pounds, Chicago basis. (About \$1 more than the returns to producers under the old regulations.)

The new ceilings correspond to recommendations by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson. He said that the higher prices were needed because restoration of the June 30 ceiling would have impeded the necessary production of livestock and meat.

**MORE SUGAR AT LEAST  
SIX MONTHS DISTANT**

No general improvement in sugar supplies is expected until the 1947 Caribbean crops begin to move in volume -- approximately six months from now. Sugar for distribution to

civilians from October through December will be 1,187,000 short tons -- 541,000 tons less than the July - September quarter.

The new allocation reflects the seasonal decline in sugar usage after the peak of canning seasons. Last year from October through December, civilians received 1,147,000 short tons of sugar.



GOVERNMENT DIRECT POTATO  
PURCHASES NEAR END

Government purchases to support potato prices to producers have passed the 27,000,000 bushel mark, an increase of about 2,000,000 bushels in two weeks.

The direct purchase program is scheduled to end September 15 after which support commitments will be carried out through loan and diversion operations. Announcement will be made soon of the program to be in effect after September 15.

Price schedules for purchase operations in Montana and in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, have been announced to take care of early marketings in those areas.

DAIRY PRICES IN AUGUST

Financial returns to dairy producers in August continued to be less than returns could have been with price ceilings and subsidies.

Under price control and subsidies the Government program indicated that dairy producers would receive during the last half of this year between 55 and 60 cents per hundred pounds more for milk than last year, and about 17 cents a pound more for butterfat.

Without price control during August, dairymen received seven cents a pound more for butterfat than last year, and an average of 47 cents a hundred pounds more for milk.

The increase in the heavy fluid milk area was generally equal to the assurance under price ceilings and subsidies, but the increase was less in Central States where some of the milk is used in manufacturing.

ADVANCE IN PRICES RECEIVED  
AND PAID BY FARMERS

The general level of prices received by farmers for their products during the month ending August 15 was 2 percent greater than a month earlier. At the same time, the level of prices paid by farmers rose  $2\frac{1}{2}$  percent, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The resulting parity ratio was 122 percent of the 1910-14 average which is the base period in figuring farm parity prices. This index has advanced 4 points in the past 12 months.

One result of higher prices for milk, at least in the Burlington, Vermont, marketing area, was a drop in consumption. The volume of milk sales in the Burlington area dropped 10 percent during the first 10 days of increased consumer prices, according to a survey.

Half of this decrease was made up in the next 20 days but sales at the end of the first month of higher prices were 5 percent under the previous month.

41 STATES SIGNED  
FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

Only seven States, the District of Columbia, and Alaska, have not yet signed School Lunch Agreements with the Production and Marketing Administration.

The seven States are: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Nebraska, Nevada, and New Hampshire.



COUNTIES URGED TO PLACE  
LIME ORDERS PROMPTLY

County Committees in the Northeast Region are urged to place farmers' lime orders for use under the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program, as soon as possible in order to assure delivery by October 31. Material furnished for use in the 1946 program must be applied by December 31.

Revised estimates from States currently show an upward trend in the tonnage of lime ordered as conservation material. Some States indicated a shift from superphosphate to lime due to the short superphosphate supply.

Individual State reports follow:

State	Estimated Tonnage	Orders Rec'd From County Office	Percentage Ordered	Deliveries Made	Percentage Delivered
Maine	80,350	66,347	83%	64,275	87%
New Hampshire	45,500	37,922	83	31,439	69
Vermont	77,300	75,177	97	59,038	76
Massachusetts	72,730	57,529	79	48,294	66
Rhode Island	8,844	7,824	88	5,666	64
Connecticut	57,164	49,280	86	41,212	72
New York	730,617	608,234	83	442,683	61
New Jersey	58,045	44,568	77	41,047	71
Pennsylvania	759,221	682,447	90	454,663	60
Total	1,889,771	1,629,328	86.2	1,188,317	62.9

POTASH Potash supplies now in sight will meet essential needs of all crop-producing areas through March 1947, according to the Civilian Production Administration. The CPA said it has followed recommendations of the Department of Agriculture in making allocations of potash until that month. The allocations include enough potash even for farming sections with big increases in the use of fertilizers.

The allocations are made to commercial fertilizer firms, and are slightly more than a year ago, but only 60 percent of what was requested by the companies.

From June 1, 1946, until next March, domestic production of potash is estimated at 792,706 tons. This compared with 780,184 tons for the same period in 1945-46.

Farmers are using much more potash fertilizer than before the war. Increases in various regions are from 50 to 170 percent.

1947 GOALS FOR RYE  
AND COVER CROP SEED

National goals for 1947 production of rye and seed for winter cover crops have been announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the guidance of farmers.

The rye goal is 2,425,000 acres to be harvested for grain which is a 36 percent increase over the indicated 1946 acreage but 34 percent below the 1937-41 average.

The increased production is needed to meet estimated requirements for food and for livestock feed. Carry-over stocks of rye on July 1 were down to 2.4 million bushels compared with 12.7 million a year earlier.

To stimulate increased rye plantings, the Government will offer loans on the 1947 crop. The rates will be comparable with the loan rates on corn which are at 90 percent of parity.



OPA ACTIONS      Mixed Feeds -- Brought back under price control on August 26 with new ceiling generally above those of June 30. Ceilings go back on by-product feeds, such as cottonseed meal, soybean meal, and linseed meal September 3.

Flour -- Bakers' flour ceilings at Minneapolis increased from \$3.34 to \$4.52 per hundred pounds. Of the increase, \$1.03 was the former subsidy payment per hundred pounds to other than Pacific Coast area millers. Pacific Coast area flour prices have been increased \$1.25 per hundred pounds of which \$1.11 was the amount of the former subsidy payment to Pacific area millers.

Oranges -- Wholesalers' markup increased from 75 cents to 85 cents a standard container and for other styles of pack. Retail price increase will average about 1/8 of one cent a pound.

Fats and Oils -- Edible tallows are returned to ceilings at June 30 levels. Lard prices will be announced in the near future.

N.Y. LEADS IN SCHOOL LUNCH PARTICIPATION      A report by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on community school lunch programs for 1945 records that 6,655,458 pupils in 43,480 schools participated. The five States that led in the number of pupils enrolled were: New York, 537,639 pupils receiving \$3.048,000 aid from the U. S. D.A.; South Carolina, 386,593 pupils and \$2,320,000 aid; Texas, 375,200 pupils and \$31,141,000 aid; Georgia, 342,379 pupils and \$2,565,000 aid; and Illinois, with 336,000 pupils and \$2,504,000 aid from the Federal funds.

The total Federal contributions amounted to \$47,844,000 and the funds contributed by States and localities are estimated to have been the equivalent of about \$76,000,000 or an average of more than \$1.50 for each Federal dollar. This averages about \$7 per pupil a year in Federal funds and about \$11 per pupil furnished by States and localities. Under the newly enacted School Lunch Act the States are required at the outset to share 50-50 in the support of the program, although service and equipment in lieu of cash may represent the State's share. In 1945, on the average, the local funds more than "matched" the Federal aid.

GROWER PRICES SET ON APPLES FOR PROCESSING      Grower prices for the big 1946 apple crop -- estimated at 64 percent more than the 1945 crop -- have been announced by the Department of Agriculture and the Office of Price Administration.

This schedule of grower prices for apples will be used in establishing processors' ceiling prices for all apple products. Prices are for apples delivered at the processing plants or receiving points.

The new prices are about 35 percent below those of 1945 in the eastern States, and 10 percent below the 1945 designated prices in the western States. Last year's eastern crop was seriously curtailed by spring frosts.

\* \* \*

---Production of meat during 1946 is expected to be the fourth largest on record in this country. This will give the U. S. civilians an average of 145 to 150 pounds per person, compared with 138 pounds in 1945.



**REPORT ON FARMERS' COOPERATIVES**      Business volume and membership of farmers' cooperative associations showed a substantial increase in the 1944-45 marketing season over the previous season, according to the Farm Credit Administration of the USDA.

Estimated membership in the agricultural cooperatives operating in the year ended June 30, 1945, was 4,505,000, an increase of 230,000. The 4,505,000 membership did not represent that many individual farmers as some farmers had membership in more than one cooperative. Business handled by the co-ops went from \$5,160,000,000 to \$5,645,000,000, an increase of \$485 million in the year.

Business of dairy co-ops totaled \$1,294,000,000 ranking first among products handled cooperatively. Associations handling grain and beans were in second place, reaching a dollar volume of \$1,286,000,000. Fruits and vegetables were third place with \$784 million of products sold during the season.

Leading State in agricultural cooperatives is Minnesota, where 1,362 associations have a membership of 420,000. Wisconsin is second in number of associations with 1,030, but Illinois is second in membership with 411,780.

**SMALLER CROP OF TURKEYS THIS YEAR**      Farmers are raising 41,013,000 turkeys this year, 9 percent less than the record crop of last year but 27 percent above the 1938-42 average. This total is a preliminary estimate of turkey production released today by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Producers' intentions on January 1 pointed to a 5 percent decrease in the turkey crop this year. However, the uncertainty of obtaining feed supplies, the higher cost of feed and an uncertain fall market outlook caused many growers to cancel their poult orders and others to reduce the number of poults they had originally intended to buy.

**SEPTEMBER ABUNDANT FOODS**      Potatoes, onions, lemons, canned citrus juices and fall apples are the foods due to be plentiful generally on the markets during September, according to marketing specialists of the U.S.D.A. During the first half of September peaches also will be plentiful on markets except in southern States where the harvest is finished. Honeydew melons, mostly from central and northern California but also from Colorado and Kansas, are expected on markets in large quantity during September and into October.

\* \* \*

(Agriculture in Action — Issued weekly and distributed in the Northeast to State PMA Committeemen, State Offices of PMA; Farmer Fieldmen, County Offices in Mass., Conn., Penna., N.J., and N.H.; County Committeemen in N.J., Penna., N.H., and R.I.)



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United States Department of Agriculture  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region  
Washington 25, D. C.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
September 11, 1946

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

Dear Committeemen:

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration programs and provide understanding of related actions.

*A. W. Manchester*  
A. W. Manchester  
Director, Northeast Region

POTATO PRODUCERS GET  
"GUIDE" FOR PRODUCTION:  
MEANS FOR PRICE SUPPORT

Individual farm acreage goals will be set for 1947 potato plantings, and only farmers who stay within their goals will be eligible for Government price supports, the Department of Agriculture has announced.

The goal restrictions are being adopted to prevent a recurrence of experience this year when estimated production exceeded requirements by about 67 million bushels. This has required costly price-support operations.

This is the first time such a limitation has been applied to a crop covered by the Steagall Amendment, which pledges the Government to support prices of commodities for which wartime increases in production were requested. This support requirement is at 90 percent of parity for 2 years after the war emergency.

Beginning September 15, all price-support measures for the rest of the 1946 crop will be in the form of loans on potatoes in storage. So far this season, direct purchases have been made of more than 31 million bushels of early and intermediate crop potatoes to support prices.

1947 Goals. Farmers will aim at a 1947 production goal of 373 million bushels -- 72 million bushels below estimated 1946 production and 5 million bushels less than the 1946 goal. National acreage will be 2,631,000, compared with 2,786,000 acres last year.

The goal for early potatoes will be 49 million bushels -- 282,000 acres. This year early commercial goals were set at 52 million bushels, but were exceeded by 30 millions.

Supplies of cereals and other vegetables and fruits are expected to be plentiful, so the market for potatoes is not expected to expand. Potato goals have therefore been set at the 10-year (1935-44) average, which is calculated to meet requirements for civilian and military consumption.

The national goal will be broken down by States on the basis of past yields and the acreage planted, apportioned into county acreage goals by State PMA offices, and into individual producer goals by county offices. State goals will be announced early in October.



1946 POTATO LOAN PROGRAM      Producers of 1946 late-crop potatoes will receive price supports under a loan program scheduled to begin September 15. These Commodity Credit Corporation loans will be supplemented where necessary and practicable by diversion to export, industrial, and feed outlets.

Loan rates will be approximately 75 percent of the September bulk support price for potatoes in approved permanent storage. Borrowers can deliver potatoes to CCC any time after completion of the loan, but must agree to limit their deliveries in any calendar month to 20 percent of the amount placed under loan.

Applications for loans will be taken from September 16 through December 15, 1946. They will mature on demand, but not later than April 30, 1947, and will bear interest at the rate of 3 percent.

Borrowers will be required to withhold low grade potatoes from the commercial market when requested by the Department. These potatoes will be called in by CCC to supply USDA-approved industrial outlets, and will assure returns to producers equal to the applicable price support for specific grades.

MAINE POTATO GROWERS CAN      Effective September 15, Maine growers having potatoes  
USE EMERGENCY STORAGE      in excess of permanent storage capacity can get CCC  
loans on potatoes in emergency field storage, the  
Department of Agriculture has announced.

The program is planned to return September support prices to growers.

Emergency field storage may include barns, sheds, windrows, banks, or pits, provided drainage is adequate and the potatoes are protected from the elements. CCC will examine such storage and the manner of storing the potatoes prior to approval of loans.

INCREASED CEILINGS      The Department of Agriculture has recommended higher ceiling  
ON DRY BEANS      prices on dry edible beans in order to obtain needed pro-  
duction. The proposed new ceilings -- per hundred pounds  
net U. S. No. 1, cleaned and bagged with all charges paid, in carload lots f.o.b.  
at country shipping points -- range from \$7.70 for bayo beans to \$11.35 for white  
kidneys.

This represents an increase of \$1 in ceilings on baby lima beans, and \$1.50 on pea and medium white, great northern, flat small white, small red, small white, cranberry, standard lima, pinto, pink, red kidney, blackeye, yelloweye, marrow, white kidney, and bayo.

EGG SUPPORT PRICE      Dried egg dealers are currently required to certify that  
NOW AT 35 CENTS      farmers received at least 35 cents a dozen for eggs sold  
to the Government under the dried egg procurement program.  
This, in effect, puts a floor of 35 cents a dozen under producer prices for eggs  
and reflects recent increases in the parity ratio.

Between February and September, the Department of Agriculture has procured nearly 10 million cases of dried and frozen eggs for Great Britain. Another million cases are expected to be purchased this fall.



# WHEAT INSURANCE SALES

Through August 31, 1946, applications for wheat insurance were filed by 538 farmers in Pennsylvania, 100 in New York, and 10 in New Jersey. The final date for accepting applications for crop insurance on the 1947 wheat crop is September 14.

# FARMERS GET "LOOPHOLE" FOR FARM LUMBER

Farmers can have logs custom-sawed by mills for their own use, according to a directive of the Civilian Production Administration, provided such lumber does not exceed 5,000 board feet during a calendar quarter.

Another change may reduce the amount of lumber available for farmers' use in repair and maintenance on farms. Previously, all lumber distributors had to set aside 75 percent of their lumber for rated orders -- mainly veterans' housing -- until the end of the calendar month.

Now distributors who order on the basis of inventories are required to set aside 80 percent for rated orders, and to hold any surplus over indefinitely for filling rated orders. Lumber not used to fill rated orders was previously released to farmers and others. However, this new provision does not affect the majority of rural lumber yards who order on the basis of two carloads per quarter.

# CONSTRUCTION APPROVED FOR FARM DWELLINGS AND BUILDINGS

Approval for the construction of 638 farm dwellings and 151 agricultural buildings other than dwellings, was given by State Committees in the Northeast States during the month of August. This made a total of 2750 agricultural constructions approved through August 31, 1946. The following table shows the number of applications received, the number approved, and the cost of the proposed work.

State	Farm Dwellings			Other Farm Buildings		
	Received	Approved	Cost of Work	Received	Approved	Cost of Work
Me.	141	129	\$323,213.50	161	161	\$1,195,610.45
N.H.	53	49	123,835.00	30	25	133,965.00
Vt.	99	95	226,322.00	60	59	272,618.68
Mass.	140	125	465,230.12	70	67	295,630.00
R.I.	16	9	44,600.00	10	5	52,200.00
Conn.	166	151	634,624.00	84	70	321,188.00
N.Y.	659	616	1,301,033.40	137	127	783,248.00
N.J.	135	119	435,605.27	72	54	259,246.00
Penna.	696	668	1,573,081.50	237	221	1,341,181.25
Total	2105	1961	\$5,127,542.89	861	789	\$4,654,887.38

# MILLFEEDS RESTRICTIONS DISCONTINUED

Discontinuance of the required 80-percent extraction rate by millers producing wheat flour has made possible the lifting of various restrictions on receipts of wheat millfeeds and the use of such products in manufacturing mixed feeds. The customary extraction rate of 72 percent will make available larger amounts of millfeeds which are the byproduct of flour manufacture.

These limitations were part of the Department of Agriculture's program to get equitable distribution of byproduct feed for livestock and poultry during a time when increased wheat exports were necessary to help offset famine and hunger abroad.

Mixed feed manufacturers are still prohibited from using during current months more than 85 percent of the grain, grain products, and grain byproducts used during the same month in 1945.



UNLIMITED PURCHASE OF  
WHEAT DISCONTINUED

The Department of Agriculture has withdrawn its offer to purchase unlimited quantities of wheat at June 30 ceiling prices. From time to time, however, the CCC

will purchase wheat at prevailing market prices in order to cover export requirements. Under the unlimited offer first made on June 30, approximately 30 million bushels of wheat have been purchased for export. The offer was originally made when price control uncertainties required the suspension of wheat set-asides. In an effort to avoid interruption of famine export shipments, the Department made an offer to buy unlimited quantities of wheat at market prices not exceeding the ceiling prices of June 30.

EXPORTS SUPPORT  
WHEAT PRICES

Large export demand continues to be the principal factor in supporting wheat prices at present levels, according to the Department of Agriculture. While this demand probably reached

its peak during the past year, above normal exports are expected to continue throughout 1947 as world food stocks continue low. This is the main reason for the U.S. establishing a national 1947 wheat goal at about the same acreage as this year.

Several factors will influence the amount of wheat exports beyond next year. One will be this country's wheat price policy. Another will be the extent to which countries lacking sufficient food will consume wheat. Moreover, world trade policies and the success of international trade agreements will have a great deal to do with the size of future wheat exports.

Without a large export trade, wheat surpluses again will accumulate in exporting countries, unless means to curtail production are effective, the report stated. Export demands, which reached their peak in 1945-46, will be less in 1946-47 and still less in 1947-48. This will bring lower export prices.

The alternative to lower prices would be for surplus countries to check production to world demand at given prices. If curtailment is not effective and acreages in the various exporting countries approximate prewar acreages, production with average yields would exceed annual use and large carry-over stocks would accumulate.

The BAE report says that after the extraordinary postwar demand for wheat is satisfied and supplies in other countries have increased, the United States' share of the world export market may average well under 100 million bushels. Almost 400 million bushels from the billion-bushel U. S. harvest for 1945 were exported.

1945 ACP PAYMENTS      Maine and Rhode Island reported 100% of the total estimated 1945 Agricultural Conservation Program payments certified through August 30, 1946. The individual State reports follow: Maine, \$275,842 - 100%; New Hampshire, \$42,451 - 99.9%; Vermont, \$172,962 - 99.7%; Massachusetts, \$257,057 - 99.4%; Rhode Island, \$11,853 - 100%; Connecticut, \$160,689 - 99.2%; New York, \$1,685,274 - 92.1%; New Jersey, \$841,146 - 99.3%; Pennsylvania, \$1,769,396 - 95.6%; total Northeast Region, \$5,216,669 - 95.7%.

\*\*\*\*\*

---Indicated production of cranberries for Massachusetts this year is the third largest crop on record with an expected 535,000 barrels compared with the 1945 harvest of 478,000. The 1946 total is exceeded only by the 1942 crop totalling 572,000 barrels and the 1937 harvest of 565,000 barrels, according to the New England Crop Reporting Service.



RADIO TRANSCRIPTION

A. W. Manchester, Director  
Northeast Region, Field Service Branch  
Production and Marketing Adm., USDA  
September 12, 1946 - 6:15 a.m.  
Station WBZ - Boston, Mass.

For several months the battles over price control legislation and then the unsettled questions of what the decontrol board, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the OPA would do under the restricted powers granted in the bill, made it impossible to say much about future prices of foods and farm products with any confidence that the statement would be true for any length of time.

Now, the law is on the books, the decontrol board has held its hearings and made its first findings, the Secretary has listed the agricultural products that are in short supply on September 1, and the OPA has made its price ceiling announcements. As a consequence of these actions, the price situation is stabilized and cleared up enough so that a summary seems likely to be useful for some time.

I am just going to try to cover it in a very general way.

First, a big part of farm products are free from ceilings. That is true of poultry and eggs, milk and dairy products, most fresh fruits and vegetables, grains and tobacco.

There are scattered exceptions. The most important is meats -- except poultry. Ceilings were placed on the prices of live animals sold for slaughter on September 1. The ceilings reach retail meat counters September 9. The ceiling prices are substantially higher than those that prevailed when OPA authority was cancelled on June 30 but are also well below the prices that prevailed in the period when there was no control.

The removal of price ceilings brought a rush of cattle and hogs to market, and the rush was given another impetus by the announcement that ceilings would go on again. Cattlemen and feeders naturally tried to cash in on the high prices.

It is reported that many animals were sent to slaughter that were not well fitted and that normally would not have gone for some time -- in some cases for months.

As a natural result, livestock movement to market after ceilings were reimposed dwindled to a trickle. The cattle had already gone and they don't go that way twice.

For the consumer, this will mean that the abundance of meat that followed the rush to market can't be expected to continue. Of course, it wouldn't have continued anyway -- there weren't animals enough.

As to whether what meat there is will disappear in the black market for the use of those who are careless about their funds or their regard for law, still remains to be seen.

(continued next page)



The announcement of the decontrol board about milk and dairy products indicated that there would be no ceilings at present but that the board would continue to watch prices and might call for control if prices tended to run away. At present those prices seem pretty steady. Everybody will be happy if they stay at a point where ceilings continue to be unnecessary.

At present, egg and poultry prices are nationally showing no tendency to run away. In fact, they have been more or less draggy in some places.

The big crop of grain is one of the most fortunate things that has happened from the standpoint of eastern feeders. Feed prices are sagging from the peaks they went to when ceilings went off. In comparison with milk and egg prices, feed is still very high, but the prospect of a record corn crop is pushing it down, long before that crop is a reality.

In the fruit and vegetable field the problem is more one of the grower getting enough to yield him a decent income than it is of preventing excessive prices.

This may be questioned by consumers. The wide margins that developed in the war between the farmer's price and the store price for many fruits and vegetables still persist in many cases, so that what the farmer gets is a very long ways from what the housewife pays.

What about the race that quite largely determines how well off farmers are -- the race between the prices they pay and those they receive? In the last month farmers lost out by just an eyelash. Nationally, they gained 2 percent in their selling prices and paid  $2\frac{1}{2}$  percent more for what they bought.

That's no way to get ahead. But it's no secret that farmers lose heavily along with most other ordinary folks before a period of inflation is over. And present prices are too close to inflationary levels for comfort.

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United States Department of Agriculture  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region  
Washington 25, D. C.

September 18, 1946

SEP 27 1946

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dear Committeemen:

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration programs and provide understanding of related actions.

*A. W. Manchester*

A. W. Manchester

Director, Northeast Region

ANOTHER RECORD  
HARVEST IN SIGHT

Despite adverse weather for late-maturing crops during August, farmers will harvest a record-breaking production of crops in 1946, according to the prospects indicated by the Department of Agriculture's September crop report.

The largest wheat crop in our history is practically harvested, and a record corn crop is in sight. Other crops indicated at record levels are tobacco, peaches, plums, vegetable truck crops, and pears.

Highlights of the report: Corn - Prospects reduced 4 percent since August 1, but indicated production of 3,371,707,000 bushels is 13 percent above last year, 29 percent above 1935-44 average. Wheat - 1,167,319 bushels indicated, 44 million bushels above last year. Spring wheat prospects gained 7 million bushels during month but still below last year's harvest. Tobacco -- Indicated production of 2,321 million pounds is 11 percent above the previous record crop of last year; prospects increased 3 percent in August.

Oats -- Forecast at 1,520,000,000 bushels; 2 percent below last year's record harvest. Flaxseed -- Indicated production of 22,842,000 bushels is more than one-third below 1945 output. Potatoes -- Indicated crop of 485 million bushels lacks only 10 million bushels of equaling 1943 record crop.

Other crops compared with last year: Apples -- 71 percent more; sugar beets -- 29 percent more; dry beans -- 8 percent more; sorghums for grains - 17 percent less; sugarcane, 6 percent less; soybeans for beans, 4 percent less; rice, one percent less.

DAIRY PRICES STUDIED  
BY DECONTROL BOARD

The national Price Decontrol Board on September 18 was to study the problem of rising market prices for butter and cheese which are not under price control.

"Higher prices for butter and cheese threaten to bring about higher prices in other manufactured dairy products, thus endangering the general price level of all dairy products," the board said in a statement issued before its meeting.

Milk, butter, cheese, and other dairy products were left free of price ceiling in the board's initial rulings on price controls.



**POTATO LOAN PROGRAM** Prices of late potatoes will be supported under loans to be made between September 15 and December 15, 1946, supplemented where necessary and practicable by diversion to export, industrial, and feed outlets. Borrowers eligible for loans are growers or associations of growers or their authorized agents and certified dealers. Although the loan rate is below the support price, when potatoes are delivered to CCC in settlement of loans, borrowers will be credited with the full support price applicable to the time and the area.

Loan rates on potatoes suitable for approved permanent storage approximate 75 percent of the September bulk (loaded on truck at farmer's gate) support price. Loans are available on U. S. No. 1; U.S. No. 1, size B; and U.S. No. 2, 1-7/8 inches minimum diameter potatoes.

All proceeds from sale of potatoes under loan must be applied against loan indebtedness until the loan is repaid by sales or deliveries of potatoes to the CCC. Reduction of the loan through the application of other cash funds will redeem potatoes in storage but will render them ineligible for price support.

Participation in the loan program has increased each year since 1943. In 1945, 11,491 growers applied for loans on 33,502,901 hundredweight.

Applicable loan rates, by States, are shown on the following table.

State and Area	U.S. No. 1 Quality	U.S. No. 1 size B and U.S. No. 2 (1-7/8 inch min.) quality
Connecticut	1.30 per cwt.	.35 per cwt.
Maine	1.05	.35
Massachusetts	1.30	.45
New Hampshire	1.30	.45
New Jersey	1.30	.50
New York, Long Island	1.30	.50
New York, other	1.20	.45
Pennsylvania	1.20	.45
Rhode Island	1.30	.50
Vermont	1.30	.45

**INDICATED DRY BEAN AND DRY PEA PRODUCTION TOPS LAST YEAR** A dry bean crop of more than 14.7 million bags in 1946 is indicated by September 1 reports from growers and others. This would be 1.1 million bags above last year, but 1.6 million bags below the 1935-44 average. Great Northern and Pea and Medium White beans make up about half of the total. One-third are Standard and Baby Limas, Pintos and Red Kidneys.

This year's prospective dry pea crop is 6.8 million bags -- more than four-fifths grown in Washington and Idaho. Probably 70 percent of the total will be of the Alaska type. Last year's production was 5.5 million bags.

**MILK AND EGG PRODUCTION DROPS** Both milk and egg production on farms slumped during August below the same month last year. Milk output dropped 2 percent although it was still the second largest August production on record. For the first 8 months of 1946, milk output was nearly 35 billion pounds compared with 26.8 million for January-August, 1945. Egg production fell 8 percent below August 1945. For the first 8 months, it was 2 percent less than last year but 27 percent above average.



**CROP INSURANCE SALES**      Wheat crop insurance sales in the Northeast wheat States were reported as follows through September 7: Pennsylvania, 780 applications filed; New York, 200; and New Jersey, 30. Farmers have until September 14 to apply for wheat insurance.

**FARM PRICES AND WORLD NUTRITION — PROBLEMS FOR FUTURE SAYS DODD**      An international program for the stabilization of agricultural prices at levels fair to producers and consumers, which will bring about improvement of nutrition throughout the world, has been recommended by N.E. Dodd, Undersecretary of Agriculture, at the FAO Conference in Copenhagen. He suggested that an FAO commission be set up to work out the program in detail.

Facts to consider at the moment and in the near future are:

- (1) Further increased production because of new methods in farming;
- (2) Markets for expanded food production;
- (3) A world nutrition problem growing out of the disruption of war, and a long-time problem of providing the food needed for adequate nutrition throughout the world.

Governments of the world should plan now for the protection of producers and for better nutrition for consumers, Mr. Dodd stated. Surpluses and needs have never been evenly distributed either between countries, or between seasons or years, he added. Farmers have often suffered from war for many years after the fighting has stopped....

Some people fear that stabilization of farm prices would keep food prices above the reach of many consumers, Mr. Dodd stated. "But in the United States we have used the Commodity Credit Corporation effectively to protect farm prices, and food consumption, meantime, has increased. Our people have been eating better in the period of farm price protection than they did in the years of depression when food prices were so low that farmers by the thousands were losing their farms."

**SEPTEMBER LIVESTOCK SUPPLY DRAINED OFF DURING OPA LAPSE**      Much livestock originally scheduled for marketing in September was sold by farmers during the July and August price control lapse, U.S. Department of Agriculture figures indicate.

Hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection during July and August numbered 35 percent more than in the corresponding months of 1945. Increased cattle marketings in July were an important factor responsible for the decrease in cattle numbers on feed in Corn Belt States on August 1, 1946 -- 45 percent fewer -- than on the same date a year earlier. On April 1, 1946, there were only 17 percent fewer cattle on feed than on April 1, 1945.

Part of the increased July and August slaughtering resulted from the below-normal marketings in June when farmers were holding back livestock and waiting to see the outcome of price control legislation pending in Congress.

Marketing livestock ahead of schedule meant less total meat from the number of animals marketed than would have been produced had the livestock been fed to previously planned weights.



**MORE WORKERS ON FARMS** While farm workers on September 1 numbered over 11.1 million persons -- an increase of 2 percent over a year earlier -- fewer of the workers were "hired." With more labor and less rush to complete work, many farmers have been able to cut down the working hours per day.

Farm work in the production of a prospective all-time record crop has made good progress this year. Field work started earlier than usual and most crops have continued ahead of schedule. Rain has not interfered to any great extent with planting, cultivation, or harvest of crops.

**1945 ACP PAYMENTS** Ninety-six percent of the total estimated 1945 ACP payments were certified in the Northeast States as of September 6. The State reports follow: Maine, \$275,842 - 100%; New Hampshire, \$42,451 - 99.9%; Vermont, \$172,962 - 99.7%; Massachusetts, \$257,057 - 99.4%; Rhode Island, \$11,853 - 100%; Connecticut, \$160,866 - 99.4%; New York, \$1,702,556 - 93.1%; New Jersey, \$341,146 - 99.3%; Pennsylvania, \$1,771,843 - 95.8%; total, \$5,236,571 - 96.1%.

**USDA DISCONTINUES MEAT BUYING FOR EXPORT** Domestic procurement of meats and meat products (excluding lard) for export to cash-paying foreign governments will be discontinued by the Department of Agriculture September 30. Purchases for UNRRA will continue until the end of that program.

Procurement of this type to be continued will be dairy products, dried and frozen eggs, animal fats including lard, vegetable oils and vegetable oil products, wheat, corn, beans, rice, canned fish and seeds.

The action is in line with the Department's policy of returning the procurement of food for cash paying governments to regular commercial channels as rapidly as possible.

Under the Government procurement program, cash-paying foreign countries have deposited \$645 million with the Department for purchase of American farm products. Countries making the purchases have included the United Kingdom, France Netherlands, Netherlands East Indies, Belgium and India.

**TARIFFS, QUOTAS ON FARM PRODUCTS LISTED** The United States has in force 29 trade agreements with 25 countries. In these this country has reduced duties or import taxes on 342 agricultural tariff classifications, pledged not to increase the existing levies on 95 classifications, and to keep 77 classifications free of duty or other levies.

Detailed information on the agreements, together with all U. S. tariffs and quotas affecting agricultural products is shown in "United States Tariff Rates on Agricultural Products," a publication recently released by the Department of Agriculture. Copies are available on request to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA.

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(Agriculture in Action -- Issued weekly and distributed in Northeast to State FFA Committeemen, State Offices of FFA; Farmer Fieldmen, County Offices in Mass., Conn., Penna., N.J., and N.H.; County Committeemen in N.J., Penna., N.H., and R.I.)



Radio Transcription  
A. W. Manchester, Director  
Northeast Region, Field Service Branch  
Production & Marketing Adm., USDA  
September 19, 1946 - 6:15 a.m.  
Station WBZ - Boston, Mass.

The big increase in farm production that took place in the war -- an increase of around 25 percent, achieved without any comparable expansion of cropland acreage and in the face of a sharp drop in the number of workers -- has been raising serious questions in the minds of forward-looking farmers as the war conditions that demanded all that production and more gradually pass.

Will this rate of production continue?

If it does, will it mean glutted markets and ruinous prices?

What can be done about it?

A new bulletin by Sherman E. Johnson of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports a comprehensive study of what happened in farm production, and why, and includes some speculation about possible courses of action. It gives one of the best collections of facts for those that want to face the realities of farm policies that I know of.

For one thing, it makes very clear that the expansion in U.S. farm production is in all probability here to stay. A little of it was due to better than average weather. The weather influences will of course fluctuate. But most of it came from such solid improvements as a great expansion in the use of tractors and tractor-drawn equipment; a more than tripling in the amount of lime used, and a nearly doubling in the amount of fertilizer, better soil conservation, a great expansion in the use of hybrid seed and improved varieties of crops, and a remarkable improvement in animal feeding and breeding.

These improvements are still only partially applied on the farms of the country. It is reasonable to expect them to continue to expand -- and yields with them. Farm production is more likely to go higher in the years ahead than it is to grow less.

Everybody agrees that the great increase in farm output, beyond anything that could have been expected, has been of incalculable value in the war years and the days of world-wide famine that followed.

But what of the years ahead?

As to that, there is one principal hope. It is that American consumers will keep on buying food at the rate that they have been buying and trying to buy it in the last two or three years. The food consumption of the average consumer in this country has been running at least 10 percent above pre-war.

There is every reason to believe that it will stay that high and perhaps go even higher if consumers have jobs and good earnings and if food prices are not excessive.

(continued next page)



## Radio Transcription - Continued

Whether or not those conditions will prevail raises pretty deep questions of American policy -- too deep for me to discuss appropriately here. But the fact remains that our policies in regard to maintained employment, wages, profits and so on will be the principal determinants of whether or not those high yields will bring burdensome surpluses and farm depression.

There are already some warning signs that we need to stop, look and listen as to what is ahead in that connection. Consumers' debts on the national level are already piling up. Evidently we are buying faster than we are earning. If that continues we shall begin to run out of customers able to buy at present rates.

Even with average high earnings, however, there are a good many families that cannot afford to buy as much food as they need. There are more such people than usual in times of mounting prices like the present -- people with small fixed incomes or wages that stay near old levels.

Proposals have been made for a public plan for expanding the food consumption of such families up to the standards essential for health. Such a program could, as a minor by-product, be a real help in making our bigger and better agriculture an asset to all our people.

A third factor in deciding the size of the farm market is our foreign policy. Most of us are a bit at sea, I suspect, and not very happy just now about world-wide international affairs. But that doesn't alter the fact that relationships and arrangements that would permit the flow on a friendly and reasonable basis of surplus foods to the hungry peoples of the world could really take care of what was left over of our major farm problems, once the American people were well fed.

It is one of the reassuring things in the troubled world just now that we have an official international organization that is considering plans to that end.

All of these methods of expanding the market -- and here I am not referring to Dr. Johnson's bulletin -- would not, of course, solve the problems of every commodity. We can easily raise more potatoes, or spinach, or any one of a hundred other perishables, than all these measures together can provide outlets for. For such products, means are needed to encourage what shift is needed to the production of goods that are still in demand.

But, for our agricultural problem as a whole, the major hope lies in steps to help people be able to buy what they need -- and if they, in spite of our reasonable efforts, cannot buy -- measures to see that they, both here and abroad, still will be as well fed as our abundant production can make possible.



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United States Department of Agriculture  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region  
Washington 25, D. C.

September 25, 1946

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

Dear Committeemen:

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration programs and provide understanding of related actions.

*A. W. Manchester*  
A. W. Manchester  
Director, Northeast Region

BROAD PROGRAM FOR  
OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

International and domestic agricultural problems will be discussed during an Outlook Conference to be held at the Department of Agriculture in Washington, Oct. 7-12.

Problems affecting agriculture -- world trade, finance, nutrition, world markets, farm costs -- will be woven into discussions that will form the background for production goals and price work that will follow in later meetings.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson will open the conference. Other speakers will be Eugene Meyer, President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("International Finance") and Sir John Boyd Orr, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization ("World Situation for Food and Agriculture").

Topics on the domestic situation include: "Peacetime Industrial Outlook" by Marriner S. Eccles, Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; "National Income and the General Price Level" by M. Joseph Meehan, Assistant Director, Office of Business Economics, Department of Commerce; and "Agricultural Outlook" by O. C. Stine, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics (BAE).

"Agriculture's Balance Sheet" will be discussed by Norman J. Wall, Division of Agricultural Finance, BAE; "Farm Family Living" by Margaret G. Reid, Bureau of Home Nutrition and Home Economics; and "Farm Cost Outlook" by Wylie D. Goodsell, BAE.

Robert H. Shields, Administrator, Production and Marketing Administration, will head the speakers on Goals, Price Supports and the Outlook. H. B. Boyd, Director of Price, PMA; Sherman E. Johnson, Assistant Chief, BAE; and Dave Davidson, Director, Field Service Branch, PMA; Will speak on "Relation of Outlook to Programs of the Department."

General discussions will follow all talks. Commodity committees will begin their work the afternoon of October 9, and will continue meetings during the following two days.

O. V. Wells, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics will speak on "Importance of Current Outlook Analysis and Interpretation." Philip Aylesworth and H.M. Dixon will outline plans for getting Outlook information to farmers.

State PMA Directors, a representative of the State PMA Committee, State Extension Specialists, Chairman of the State Production Adjustment Committees, and other State and Washington officials will attend the conference.



SHIELDS TO LEAVE  
GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson announced the resignation of Robert H. Shields as Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration and the President of the Commodity Credit Corporation on September 23. Shields, who will continue in his present position for several weeks, will leave Government service to enter private industry as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the United States Beet Sugar Association. His successor has not been appointed.

A native of Nebraska and graduate of the University of Nebraska and Harvard Law School, Shields practiced law in New York City before joining the staff of the Department of Agriculture in 1934 in the Office of the General Counsel for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Various positions held by Shields during his years with the Department include Chief of the Agricultural Adjustment Division of the Solicitor's Office, Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture and Judicial Officer of the Department, and Solicitor of the Department and the War Food Administration. In the spring of 1946, he was appointed Production and Marketing Administrator and President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, positions which he holds at present.

Among numerous civic and professional activities outside the Department, Shields served as National President of the Federal Bar Association during 1945-46.

DAIRY PRODUCTS CONTINUE  
FREE OF PRICE CONTROL

Prices of dairy products, while continuing free of controls at this time will remain under constant national observation by the Price Decontrol Board.

Evidence shows that prices are approaching the critical point, but does not as yet provide sufficient grounds for action, according to Roy L. Thompson, Chairman of the Price Decontrol Board.

Additional information on the price trend of dairy products has been requested on a continuing basis from the Office of Price Administration, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the dairy industry.

"We consider it our continuing responsibility, as long as the Price Control Act is in operation," Thompson said, "to see that reasonable prices are maintained on dairy products, in the public interest.

DAIRY OUTLOOK GOOD

A continuing heavy demand for dairy products through the first half of 1947 is forecast by the USDA Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Prices of dairy products through the first half of 1947 will average close to present levels after allowing for seasonal variations.

No reduction in prices of dairy products is expected before the latter part of 1947. The costs of feed concentrates also will be down but other dairy production costs will be higher.

In relation to the prices of feed and competing livestock products, farm prices of dairy products may be more favorable than in the past summer, and are likely to be above average at least through the first half of 1947, BAE indicates.

MORE WIRE  
FOR BALING

To take care of baling requirements for agricultural products, Government supplies of bale wire will continue to be channeled to producers of bale ties, the Civilian Production Administration has announced. War Assets Administration was required to set aside 7,500 tons of wire suitable for making bale ties from July 26 through September 30. This period is now extended to November 30 because this amount has not been reached.



**CROP INSURANCE SALES** According to the most recent reports received from wheat States in the Northeast, 1400 crop insurance sales were made in Pennsylvania, 234 in New Jersey, and 188 in New York on the 1947 wheat crop. The closing date for accepting applications was September 14 and a final report of sales should be available by October 1.

**MAINE POTATO DIVERSION PROGRAM OPERATING** The Department of Agriculture announced September 21 that 1946 potato diversion operations were underway in Maine. Under this program, growers who deliver potatoes to processors for diversion will receive from participating factories prices based on farmer's gate support prices for the grades delivered. Factories then will claim payment from the Government for that portion of the total prices in excess of the value of potatoes for processing purposes.

A field run feature has been added to the program, similar to that in effect during October last year. It provides that growers who are certified by the County Agricultural Conservation Committee as having inadequate permanent storage may deliver specified quantities of field run potatoes to specified factories until October 31. This date is subject to change by the director of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch, PMA. In addition to field run potatoes, both growers and certified dealers may deliver potatoes of, or better than, U. S. No. 2 grade 1-7/8 inches minimum diameter or U.S. No. 1, size B. Potatoes meeting this specification may be diverted throughout the duration of the program.

**LIVESTOCK MARKETINGS ON UPSWING** Livestock marketings are again on the upswing following the extremely low receipts in early September. Much livestock originally scheduled for marketing in September was sold during July and August when price controls were off.

Receipts at the 12 major markets during the week ending September 21 were 35 percent larger than during the preceding week, but 40 percent smaller than in the corresponding week in 1945.

The biggest increase was in cattle marketings, but a high percentage of the stocker and feeder run was purchased by farmers to be fattened in feedlots this winter. This will result in less beef in the butcher shop this fall, but more and better beef several months from now.

Hog marketings showed a 27-percent increase over the preceding week, but were 73 percent smaller than during the corresponding week of 1945. Many hogs intended for September sale were sold at below-normal weights in August. No substantial increase in hog marketings is expected until late October.

Following are the livestock receipts at the 12 major markets for the week ending September 21 compared with marketings during the preceding week and the corresponding week of 1945:

	<u>Week ending Sept. 21</u>	<u>Week ending Sept. 14</u>	<u>Corresponding Wk.</u>
Cattle	163,300	103,800	308,000
Calves	52,600	41,200	67,700
Hogs	30,900	24,300	114,800
Sheep	228,600	183,000	290,600

In view of the small livestock runs and the present meat situation, the USDA has discontinued meat allocations to foreign countries, beyond those amounts already procured. Meat now held in Government inventory will be available for foreign shipment.



ACP MEN MEET,  
SEE WEEKS' FARM

The following is quoted from the Manchester, N.H. "Union" of September 17.

"A training school for Rockingham County ACP community committees was conducted by the county and State Extension Service cooperating with the AAA September 6 with 29 present.

"The morning session was held at the Farm Bureau office, called to order by G. Justin Kemp, Kingston county committeeman. The meeting was then turned over to County Agricultural Agent James A. Purington who discussed the object of the meeting and explained soil testing work carried on in Rockingham County.

"A true and false examination was conducted by Ralph Littlefield, extension specialist in soils and crops with an explanation and answer to the questions given by Mr. Littlefield the first part of the afternoon session.

"A tour was then made to the Newton Weeks dairy farm, Greenland, where excellent stands of alfalfa were seen and pastures looked over. Further comments on soil testing were made by the county agent. Farm practices carried out on the farm were discussed by Mr. Weeks. Clover and weed identification was discussed by Mr. Littlefield. A home freezer locker was also looked over.

"M. Dean Sanborn, ACP conservation assistant, took up other matters pertaining to the ACP as did Charlie Naimie, State farmer fieldman, which included the use of potatoes to be supplied by the AAA in a limited amount for dairy feeding.

"The meeting proved worthwhile with favorable comments made by various committeemen present who also expressed a desire for a similar meeting in the spring."

POULTRY SITUATION HAS  
DONE AN "ABOUT-FACE"

The poultry situation has taken an abrupt "about-face" in recent weeks, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Demand for commercial broiler chicks exceeds supply. With red meats disappearing from the market, poultry meat prices have risen sharply. The tight feed situation of the past few months has eased up considerably.

In August, baby chick production reached the low point of the year. The August hatch of 23,386,000 chicks was only one-third as large as the hatch in the same month a year ago.

Fewer than half as many eggs were in incubators on the first of September this year as on the same date a year earlier.

CCC BUYS WHEAT

The Commodity Credit Corporation bought 14,229,465 bushels of wheat from September 9 to 17 for export.

The Corporation had announced on September 6 that wheat would be bought at prices in line with prevailing market prices. In the same announcement CCC withdrew its offer to purchase unlimited quantities of wheat at June 30 ceiling prices.

The 14 million bushels of wheat were purchased by PMA Grain Branch Offices at Chicago, Kansas City, Minneapolis, and Portland.



**FARMERS URGED TO  
COLLECT SCRAP METAL**

Farmers are being urged by the Department of Agriculture to search their farms for scrap metal to ease the current shortage of scrap for producing steel.

The production of farm machinery and other metal products has been slowed up by the serious lack of scrap iron and steel. Every ingot of steel is half scrap metal.

Although scrap collected from farms will not go exclusively into the manufacture of farm machinery, it will indirectly help increase machinery output. Scrap from farms can be sold to local metal dealers or to farm machinery dealers.

**WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION** A bright spot in the food supply picture is the world potato crop for 1946-47, tentatively estimated at 7,283 million bushels. This is the largest crop since 1942 and 13 percent larger than last season's crop. It is still below the 5-year (1935-39) average of 8,127 million bushels.

On the other side of the ledger is world rice production, which in 1946-47 will be 10 percent more than last season, but still below prewar output. This means a continued rice shortage in most countries.

With the world so vitally in need of fats and oils, world production of flaxseed in 1946 may be the smallest since the crop in 1944. The crop is forecast at 132.3 million bushels.

**JULY LUMBER PRODUCTION  
TOPS JUNE**

July lumber production in the U. S. topped the 3 billion board foot level for the third consecutive month, the Civilian Production Administration says.

July production was 27 percent over July 1945.

Total production to date this year is almost 19 billion board feet, an increase of 7 percent over the first 7 months of 1945. Lumber requirements for this year are estimated at nearly 34 billion board feet.

**HALF OF U.S. FARMS  
ARE ELECTRIFIED**

More than half of the farms in the United States now have electricity, says the Rural Electrification Administration.

More than 2 3/4 million farms -- about 47 percent -- still did not have central station electric service. In addition, at least that many non-farm rural homes, churches, schools, and other rural establishments lack electricity.

When REA was established 11 years ago, less than 11 percent of all U.S. farms had central station electric service.

**FCA HELPS INCREASING  
NUMBER OF VETERANS**

Production credit associations made loans of \$104 million to 4,853 veteran-members during the first half of 1946, the Farm Credit Administration has announced. In the

same period, 1,214 veterans obtained \$5,170,000 in long-term Federal land bank and Land Bank Commissioners loans for the purchase of farms.

Veterans who wish to farm may obtain other FCA assistance. For instance, they have certain priority to purchase surplus farm land no longer needed by the Government, which the War Assets Administration assigns to FCA for sale. Of nearly 84,000 acres of surplus farm land sold through FCA up to August 25, more than 10,600 acres were purchased by veterans.



TRUCK PRODUCTION INCREASES      Farmers who need new trucks will be encouraged by the news that truck production in August reached an all-time high of 105,506 units, bettering the previous peak of 96,170 set in April 1937.

The August output was more than 12,000 trucks over July production, and was mostly in the light and medium-weight classes.

Manufacturers forecast production of 116,762 units for September unless unforeseen shortages develop.

HEADING FOR THE      Farmers have one month left to harvest alfalfa and red  
LAST SEED ROUNDUP      clover seed. They can be assured that every pound harvested is needed for planting next year.

U.S. need for alfalfa and red clover seed remains high, with some difficulty in getting enough of these seeds for farmers in eastern States. Last year's carry-over of clover seed is very small.

Export demand for seed continues strong. European countries will accept all the clover seed the U.S. can release to them to rehabilitate their farm land.

With a goal of 95 million pounds for red clover seed and 80 million pounds for alfalfa, early indications show that the 1946 harvest is falling short of these goals. Yields in some places are poor to fair. While they are better in others, acreages are smaller than last year.

The alsike clover seed harvest has produced 18 million pounds, 2 million pounds short of the goal, but that much more than last year. Approximately one-half million pounds of alsike clover seed will be exported.

Besides the market price for alfalfa and red clover seed, farmers have the benefit of seed harvesting payments under the Agricultural Conservation Program in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS      Linseed oil -- Two cents a pound increase in processors' linseed oil ceilings authorized by OPA to reflect the higher cost in flaxseed to crushers. New flaxseed ceilings of \$4 a bushel at Minneapolis were announced last week.

Binder twine-- The Reconstruction Finance Corporation has been authorized to purchase 30 million pounds of binder twine from Mexico and Cuba. Subsidy funds will be used, and RFC will absorb losses in reselling it to domestic users.

Cold storage warehouses in Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia may raise ceiling rates for apple storage to 25 cents a bushel -- a 5 cent increase. The new rates will apply also to pears, onions, and carrots.

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(Agriculture in Action -- Issued weekly and distributed in Northeast to State PMA Committeemen, State Offices of PMA; Farmer Fieldmen, County Offices in Mass., Conn., Penna., N.J., and N.H.; County Committeemen in N.J., Penna., N.H., and R.I.)



Radio Transcription  
A. W. Manchester, Director  
Northeast Region, Field Service Branch  
Production and Marketing Adm., USDA  
September 26, 1946 - 6:15 a.m.  
Station WBZ - Boston, Mass.

The flood of questions and comments about the price support program carried out by the Government in connection with this year's big potato crop seems to call for a restatement of the facts.

First, the big crop this year is principally the result of big yields -- not big acreage. The acreage planted, nationally, is almost exactly the acreage called for in this year's crop goals. As a matter of fact, it exceeds the goals by only two-tenths of one percent. You can't hope to get closer to a goal than that. But the yield is something heretofore unheard of. The last official estimate gave it at 167 bushels per acre. That's a third higher than average and 10 percent above the highest yield ever reached before. Practically everywhere that the crop has been dug the reports have been the same: tremendous yields.

Yields have been climbing up year by year. It seems reasonably safe to count on yields much higher than we used to get. But no conservative person dared forecast a yield like this 167 bushel one. When you get yields like that, you can't tell the causes with certainty. However, it seems reasonable to say that among the causes are the shift of potato-growing into the high-yielding, intensive potato areas -- California, New Jersey, Long Island, Maine, and so on. We probably had better than average weather this year for potatoes, and the greatly expanded use of DDT probably contributed quite a lot. It will, however, take several years before the effect of DDT can be fully appraised.

The tremendous crop has made the job of supporting the price at the promised levels an extremely difficult one. This price support is required by Congressional action, taken originally as we were moving into the war, but reiterated several times by Congress, and calling for the support to be continued two years after the war in order to permit agriculture to readjust to peace conditions.

It is worth noting that this action by Congress has never been much of a controversial issue. The present form of the Act, for instance, was passed by a vote of three to one in the House of Representatives and without a dissenting vote in the Senate.

The price support is carried out in two ways: by Government purchase of the surplus early potatoes and price-supporting loans on late potatoes. Even the loan, however, leads to an eventual acquisition by the Government in case the potatoes are not wanted by the market.

The major problem in a purchase program is to find the best possible use that can be made of the potatoes acquired. The problem is made more difficult by the fact that potatoes are highly perishable, particularly early potatoes. There isn't much time in which to make use of them. In the main, the potatoes purchased have been used for manufacturing alcohol and starch. Those for which some outlet where they would be used for human consumption could be found have been diverted to that use. Recently substantial quantities have also been made available for livestock feeding.

(continued next page)



## Radio Transcription - 2

In very dry climates, like California, it was possible to dehydrate the potatoes by spreading them on paved airfield runways and crushing or cutting them into pieces. They dry very nicely under those conditions and are suitable for manufacturing or use for livestock feed. Unfortunately, here in the humid East, that's not possible. So every effort's been made to get them to manufacturers while they were still sound. The quantity has been in excess of the total capacity of the manufacturing plants and a relatively small quantity--amounting up to now to about one-third of one percent of the total crop -- deteriorated before they could be used. There are still substantial quantities of Government-owned potatoes in piles in New Jersey, Long Island, and a few in New England. These, in the main, are keeping very well so that it is hoped that they can all be used.

Whether the late potato crop that's now being dug can all be salvaged cannot be told yet. Every effort will be made in that direction but the crop may exceed all outlets that can be developed. There is reasonable hope that it may be possible to ship some to hungry people in Europe. But the European crop is substantially better than it was last year, so the quantity that will be wanted then will not be unlimited.

Some people have urged that large quantities be dehydrated for human food and the dehydrated product shipped abroad. This is, however, a very costly process, and cereals, which cost only perhaps one-fifth as much per pound and have equal nutritive value, are commonly very much preferred in foreign countries.

The accumulated experience of the last two or three years, when yields have been rising constantly and the burden of supporting prices has grown heavier and heavier, has already led to the announcement that the price of potatoes in 1947 will be supported only for those potato growers who do not plant more than the acreages which are allotted to them.

The proposed national allotment will represent a cut of 6 percent from this year's acreage. The question may be raised whether this is reduction enough in view of the fact that we have around a 30 percent surplus this year. However, no one would plan for a shortage of potatoes and it is still uncertain how much of the big increase in yields can be safely counted on. The 1947 acreage goal is established on the basis of a yield of 141 bushels per acre. This is well below this year's 167 bushels but it is high as compared with our experience up until the last two years. When the effect of the new factors in potato production has been better established by experience, it should be possible to anticipate yields with more confidence.

Meanwhile, there is some reassurance in the facts that, first, there are plenty of potatoes for any hungry person who wants them and, second, most of those that nobody wants to eat are being used for products essential to industry which would otherwise be in very short supply, or for livestock feed. Dairymen who are feeding the potatoes report that they are securing a substantial increase in milk production, so that as a result of the feeding program, unwanted potatoes are being transmuted into very much wanted milk and dairy products.



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United States Department of Agriculture  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region  
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

September 30, 1946

Dear Committeemen:

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration Programs and provide understanding of related actions.

*A. W. Manchester*

A. W. Manchester  
Director, Northeast Region

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION  
PROGRAMS BRANCH SET UP

A number of revisions in the administrative structure of the Production and Marketing Administration, and shifts in personnel assignments in line with these revisions, were announced Sept. 27 by R. H. Shields, PMA Administrator.

The changes are designed primarily to: (1) eliminate certain war-time administrative units which are no longer essential, (2) strengthen staff level administration along functional lines, and (3) broaden and improve field operations by providing more direct program contacts between the commodity branches in Washington and the State and county committee system in the field -- through the PMA State offices, and (4) increase the facilities for marketing service.

Commenting on the changes announced, Administrator Shields said, "The administrative revisions are a further step in carrying out the basic plans for PMA organization which were announced by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson when the agency was established last year. The changes will serve still further to centralize commodity program responsibility in the individual PMA branches in Washington, and to increase the effectiveness of the farmer committee system through which the programs are developed and administered in the States and counties. They will make possible more effective planning and direction of marketing activities. The revisions also will result in important economies, through reassignment of functions and reductions in the number of administrative units."

In the actions announced, four PMA branches or staff offices are abolished, the functions of a fifth are largely transferred to other branches or to the Administrator's Office, and one new branch is established. Responsibilities of the Assistant Administrators are reassigned, and control of all fiscal and shipping and storage work is definitely centralized.

The revisions and changes, all of which were effective as of October 1, 1946, include:

Under the previous PMA organization, Assistant Administrators have been responsible primarily for activities carried out by individual branches or other administrative units of the agency. Beginning October 1, five Assistant Administrators will be responsible for specific areas of operation along functional lines -- working "across the board" in the entire agency. The five are:

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Assistant Administrator for Marketing -- responsible for all marketing programs and activities, including those responsibilities under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, which the Department may assign to PMA for administration. (E. A. Meyer, formerly an Assistant Administrator for certain commodity branches)

Assistant Administrator for Production -- responsible for all production programs and activities. (Carl C. Farrington, formerly an Assistant Administrator for certain commodity branches.)

Assistant Administrator for Field Operations -- responsible for over-all direction of State and county administration of PMA programs. (Dave Davidson, formerly Director of the Field Service Branch -- with Claudius Hodges, formerly Field Service Branch Deputy Director, as Deputy Assistant Administrator.)

Assistant Administrator for Fiscal, Shipping and Storage work -- responsible for over-all direction of all PMA work in these fields. (Col. R. L. Harrison, formerly an Assistant Administrator for Fiscal and Inventory Control.)

Assistant Administrator -- responsible for over-all administration. (Ralph S. Trigg, formerly an Assistant Administrator for Administration.)

A new Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch is established. Responsibility for formulation and development of Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) is transferred to this branch from the Field Service Branch. All work with fertilizers is also transferred to and consolidated in this branch. H. B. Boyd, who has been serving both as Special Assistant to the Administrator and as Director of Price, will be Director of the new Branch. He will also continue as Director of Price. Allen W. Manchester, formerly Director of the Northeast Region of Field Service Branch, and Fred B. Northrup, formerly Assistant to the Administrator, will serve as Assistant Directors of the Branch.

Other functions of the Field Service Branch, including the primary administrative responsibility for field operations through the PMA State offices, are transferred to the office of the Assistant Administrator for Field Operation. In connection with this transfer, responsibility is placed with each individual commodity branch to develop and maintain its own direct field program supervision with State offices -- under the general control of the Assistant Administrator for Field Operations.

All fiscal, shipping and storage responsibility is centralized in the office of the Assistant Administrator for Fiscal, Shipping and Storage.

The following branches or offices are abolished, with any remaining essential functions or programs transferred to other appropriate administrative units of the agency: the Office of Requirements and Allocations, the Office of Foreign Programs Coordination, the Materials and Equipment Branch, and the Special Commodities Branch.

Further personnel transfers or appointments in connection with the administrative changes will be announced as they are made.



"THE MONTHS AHEAD --"

Here is the price score for farmers in the months ahead, as seen by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson:

"Congress directed the Secretary of Agriculture to recommend new ceilings when ceilings in force impede production. . . . Ceiling prices do not seem to be impeding the needed production of any agricultural commodity, and we in the Department feel that price adjustments are now behind us and that there should be few if any additional recommendations for upward ceiling prices.

"Some adjustments, of course, may become necessary. The law may require some due to changes in parity rates and the like. But, barring entirely unforeseen circumstances which might affect agricultural production, these are about the only price adjustments contemplated, and whatever they may be or when they may come, they will be held to the minimum required by law.. .

"The period ahead will be difficult at best. Farmers have a stake in the home market which they must not jeopardize. . . . They can help themselves capture more of the home market by doing their part in seeing reasonable prices maintained for full production, by making sure that America loses none of its love for nourishing food, and by avoiding restrictions on production by inviting constantly greater consumption at every table in the land."

FERTILIZER -- PART OF THE FARMING REVOLUTION      Farmers could use more fertilizer for their 1947 crops than they are likely to get. But they'll still be getting more fertilizer than ever before. That's the fertilizer outlook for farmers, according to the Department of Agriculture. Even more significant than the short supply prospects is the increase in fertilizer use by farmers.

In less than 10 years, farmers have doubled their use of fertilizers, and much of the gain was encouraged by the Agricultural Conservation Program which in 1936 began to give assistance for use of fertilizer.

Fertilizers have come to play a vital part in American farming. They are essential to conservation farming since they help to establish and maintain stands of grass, legumes, and other plant cover which prevent water run-off and hold fertility in the soil.

The increased use of fertilizer in farming means that it has come to be recognized more as a capital investment than as an expense to be paid back by returns from the current crop.

In the agricultural reconversion years immediately ahead, we shall need large amounts of fertilizer to restore the fertility drained by heavy cropping, which was forced by emergency wartime demands for food and oils. Further use of fertilizer is desirable in all sections of the country, especially in the Midwest, according to reports by State production adjustment committees.

Supplies of fertilizers available to farmers for 1947 crops are expected to fall short of requirements by about 15 percent for nitrogen, 17 percent for phosphorus, and 6 percent for potash. The estimated supply for each type, however, will be larger than for any past year.

\* \* \*

---American agriculture was worth \$101.5 billion at the beginning of 1946, a gain of nearly 12 percent from a year earlier and practically 90 percent since January 1, 1940.



**EMERGENCY FIELD STORAGE  
POTATO LOANS - MASS., N.Y.**

A loan program for potatoes in emergency field storage has been authorized for Massachusetts and for the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, and Steuben in New York, as a means of supporting the price for potatoes for which no permanent storage is available.

The loan program, effective September 15, 1946, is planned to return to the grower the September support price.

Emergency field storage may include barns, sheds, windrows, banks, or pits, provided drainage is adequate and protection from the elements, including freezing, is provided. Such storage, and the manner of storing the potatoes, will be examined by the Commodity Credit Corporation, or its authorized representatives, prior to approval of each loan.

**SOYBEAN PRICE SUPPORT  
PROGRAM ANNOUNCED**

The Department of Agriculture's loan-and-purchase program on the 1946 crop of soybeans calls for a support price to all farmers of \$2.04 per net bushel for green and yellow soybeans grading U. S. No. 2, 14 percent moisture basis. Premiums and discounts will be the same as in 1945.

Loans will be made to farmer at support prices for soybeans of any class having a moisture content not in excess of 14 percent, grading No. 4 or better, and stored on farms in approved storage facilities.

Where necessary because of inadequate markets, County Agricultural Conservation Committees will purchase soybeans from producers at the support prices. Loans will be available to processors for financing soybeans purchased at support prices.

**WHAT'S AHEAD IN  
POULTRY, EGGS**

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics forecasts the following poultry and egg outlook for 1947:

- Higher prices for eggs. Rising parity costs will force up prices in line with legal price-support requirements.
- A drop in turkey and chicken prices after mid-1947. Consumer income may decline then.
- Egg consumption will drop. Per person consumption this year is second highest on record.
- Egg production 6 to 9 percent less than in 1946.
- Egg exports to drop to about 2 percent of total production; exports were 11 percent of production during the war.

**PRICE SUPPORT PURCHASES OF  
1946 CROP IRISH POTATOES**

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, according to preliminary figures for the period ending September 12, has purchased approximately thirty-three million bushels of the 1946 crop Irish potatoes under the price support program. Disposal of the potatoes purchased is shown below for States in the Northeast and the larger potato States.

State	For Fresh Distribution	For Diversion	Temporary Storage & Unharvested	Total
California	2,115	8,142,115		8,144,223
Massachusetts	6,000	53,232	80,000	139,232
New Jersey	77,440	839,723	1,700,000	2,617,163
New York	98,625	822,350	4,568,000	5,558,975
No. Carolina	13,500	2,632,385	2,069,753	4,715,648
Pennsylvania	14,250	189,962	13,100	217,312
Rhode Island	12,385	2,305	2,900	17,590
Texas	79,663	1,095,003		1,174,666
Virginia	94,290	2,504,359	595,223	3,193,872



N.Y., N.J., PA. STATE PMA  
DIRECTORS' APPOINTMENTS ISSUED

Robert J. Howard, Jacob A. Blakeslee, and  
Clyde A. Zehner, formerly designated as State  
PMA Directors for New York, New Jersey, and

Pennsylvania, respectively, have now been officially appointed to that position  
by PMA Administrator Shields. In a letter to the Directors, Mr. Shields said:

"I am looking to you to provide leadership in bringing to me the reactions of  
farmers, processors, distributors, and consumers in your State to all programs  
being administered by the Production and Marketing Administration. I am also  
looking to you to give us advice in the preparation and development of new programs.

"In carrying out your responsibility for administering Production and Marketing  
Administration programs you will follow the advice and counsel of the PMA State  
Committee in adapting programs to local conditions in line with policies laid  
down in my letter of April 15, 1946, in which I pointed out that I regard you as  
the personal representative of the Administrator for your State. You will also  
conform to the spirit and philosophy of the Administration as set forth in my  
address to you on June 17, 1946, at our National Conference in Chicago.

"The responsibility that you and the State Committee have for carrying out  
Production and Marketing Administration programs is a great one which requires  
the maximum of initiative, loyalty, cooperativeness and tact on the part of all  
of you..."

**"FARM SUBSIDIES"**

The following is quoted from an editorial in the Burlington,  
Vermont, Free Press dated July 29, 1946;

"The United States Department of Agriculture announced last week a \$314,000,000  
subsidy program for 1947, designed to encourage farmers to rebuild their soil  
after the heavy wartime production drain.

"Farmers may become eligible for payments from the fund by adopting soil and  
water conservation practices recommended by the State AAA farmer committees,  
technical experts of the Department and by local farmer committees. It was stated  
that the 1947 program will give farmers greater responsibility than heretofore  
in determining practices to be followed.

"Federal subsidies for conservation purposes are in quite a different category  
than those established during the war to enable OPA to keep down prices for farm  
products. The conservation subsidies have been in use for a decade or more and  
grew out of the theory that it is important to the national welfare that pro-  
ductive capacity of the soil must be conserved by better farming practices if the  
land is to continue to provide adequate food supplies.

"During World War I, high prices for farm products resulted in the plowing up of  
large areas of land in the mid-western states which never should have been plowed,  
thus paving the way for the dust storm troubles of succeeding years. This and  
other practices stimulated the federal government to undertake land conservation  
measures to preserve a national asset and prevent land from being blown away, washed  
away or robbed of fertility by bad farming practices.

"It might be argued that farmers themselves should be sufficiently interested in  
conserving the productivity of their land so that they would adopt correct practices,  
when informed, without subsidy. In some cases they have done so. But there are  
many cases where the expense is beyond their immediate power to handle, so they are  
likely to let the land deteriorate rather than undertake conservation measures.  
It is for the public welfare to pay federal subsidies in order that more of the  
land may be kept productive for future generations.







Radio Transcription  
A.W. Manchester, Director  
Northeast Region, Field Service Branch  
Production and Marketing Adm., USDA  
October 3, 1946 - 6:15 a.m.  
Station WBZ - Boston, Mass.

Two Northeastern State bulletins announcing the 1947 ACP for their respective States landed on my desk this morning.

These bulletins put into concrete form some recent developments in conservation work that I think may not be generally understood. For instance, the way the program operates: The money appropriated by Congress is now divided among all the States in the Union. Each State conservation committee is told exactly how much money is available for the coming year in that State and has the responsibility of developing a program that in their judgment will accomplish the most of these things that need to be done the most. The State committee divides the funds into county allocations and each county committee has the same sort of responsibility for the county that the State committee has for the State. In carrying out that responsibility, they not only have the right to propose modifications in the State program to adapt it more closely to the needs of that particular county, but they are also responsible for the division of the funds among the farms of the county.

The way that works is about like this: A community committeeman talks with any farmer who wants to participate in the program, finds out what the needs and problems of that farm are in the way of soil conservation, and what soil-building practices the farmer wants to carry out in the coming year. These are reported from all over the county to the county committee, which sizes up the total of the needs and plans, matches them against the available funds, and decides what assistance they can approve for each farm. The whole program is operated on the basis of this study of needs and decisions as to how to utilize the funds most effectively.

The State bulletins are coming out this early in order to give more time before the actual start of the program for the committeemen who make the contacts with the farmers to get the farm plans worked out for the county committee to make the decisions as to how far it can help each farm in going ahead in conservation work.

This whole process, in my thinking, illustrates the very sound direction in which the conservation program is moving. That is the direction of greater and greater delegation to State and county, and even community, committees of responsibilities for both deciding what the program shall be and for handling all the details of its carrying out. We are confident that this delegation of authority and responsibility and its acceptance by the men who are elected to represent the farmers is steadily increasing the amount of accomplishment from the expenditure that the program involves.

It is interesting that the State and county committees are tending to increase materially the kinds of activity being carried out under the program. For instance, this year several of the States in the Northeast have restored nearly all the forest conservation practices that were commonly eliminated during the war. When the war was on, the program was quite largely concentrated on measures to bring results that would give prompt increases in production. Practices that would bring results only after quite a few years, like forest practices, were pretty well left out.

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Another practice that is quite generally coming in this year is one on pasture clearing, combined with fertilizing and seeding. Pasture improvement has, of course, for many years been one of the major features of the program, but the work has been mainly limited to pastures already physically adapted to fertilizing and, if needed, to seeding. This new practice recognized that there are many situations where it would be rather wasteful to attempt to improve the pasture without doing some preliminary work in clearing the land of rocks or brush, in some cases leveling hummocks, and so on, so that it can be handled as pastures ought to be handled, with regular clipping and rotation of grazing.

Another new development this year is the fact that permission is given each county to add a special practice of its own -- something that maybe has never been in the program before, but in the judgment of the people in the county will do a conservation job that is urgently needed there. These individual county practices will be announced by the counties and, for the country as a whole, should represent a valuable series of experiments looking to better ways of soil conservation than we have known or emphasized in the past. It looks now as if the conservation program ought to be off to its best year in 1947.

(Agriculture in Action -- Issued weekly and distributed in Northeast to State PMA Committeemen, State Offices of PMA; Farmer Fieldmen, County Offices in Mass., Conn., Penna., N.J., and N.H.; County Committeemen in N.J., Penna., N.H., and R.I.)